

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method of iteratively detecting and decoding encoded and interleaved symbols transmitted on a transmission channel, said symbols being transmitted on the basis of a sequence of binary symbols, each sequence of received symbols comprising at least specific learning symbols, in addition to the data, hold and tail symbols, wherein said method comprises the steps of :

prior to any iteration,

- running an initial linear estimation of coefficients of the impulse response of the transmission channel $\hat{H}_{(z)}^{(1)}$ on the basis of the specific learning symbols transmitted;

by iteration :

- subjecting equalization and decoding process to an iterative process of exchanging a priori information, firstly relating to re-interleaved symbol bits from the decoding process in the case of the equalization process and, secondly, relating to de-interleaved encoded bits from the equalization process in the case of the decoding process;
- running an updated iterative re-estimation of coefficients of the impulse response of the transmission channel on the basis of the information resulting from the iterative equalization and decoding process;
- repeating the steps performed by iteration at the next iteration,

and wherein said iterative process of exchanging a priori information comprises differentiating between a contribution of the transmission channel and a contribution of the decoding.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein said differentiation step comprises, firstly, in:

- subtracting from sequence (S_1) of weighted outputs on equalized symbol bits, resulting from the equalization process, said a priori information (S''_2) on the symbol bits in order to generate an extrinsic sequence (S'_1);

- subjecting said extrinsic sequence (S'_1) to a de-interleaving process in order to generate a sequence of weighted inputs (S''_1) containing information from the channel and the a priori information on the encoded bits emanating from the equalization;

and, secondly, in:

- subtracting from sequences of weighted outputs (S_2) on decoded bits, resulting from the decoding process, said sequence of weighted inputs (S''_1) in order to generate a sequence of extrinsic information on decoded bits (S'_2);
- subjecting said sequence of extrinsic information on decoded bits (S'_2) to a re-interleaving process to generate said a priori information (S''_2) on the symbol bits.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein said equalization process is a Viterbi SISO MLSE equalization process with weighted inputs coupled with a re-estimation by an iterative expectation maximization type process.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the equalization process is a DDFSE process with weighted outputs coupled with a re-estimation of the bootstrap type.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the equalization process is a process of the GSOVA type coupled with a re-estimation of the bootstrap type.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein if said equalization process is an equalization process of the DDFSE type in which a single survivor per node is retained, said method further comprises the steps of:

prior to any iteration,

- computing, from said initial linear estimation of the coefficients of the impulse response $\hat{H}_{(z)}^{(1)}$ of the transmission channel, a minimum phase filter $\hat{P}_{(z)}^{(1)}$ and an anticausal filter $\hat{Q}_{(z)}^{(1)}$ respectively, where $\hat{H}_{(z)}^{(1)} * \hat{Q}_{(z)}^{(1)} = \hat{P}_{(z)}^{(1)}$, the filter $\hat{P}_{(z)}^{(1)}$ being defined as a transmission channel with an initial minimum phase, then

by iteration,

- subjecting said sequence of received symbols to said equalization process, conditional on the values of the minimum phase filter $\hat{P}_{(z)}^{(l)}$ defined as a successive minimum phase transmission channel for the current iteration, and, on the basis of said updated linear estimation $\hat{H}_{m(z)}^{(l+1)}$, for the next iteration;
- updating, for the next iteration, the minimum phase filter $\hat{P}_{(z)}^{(l+1)}$ defined as a successive minimum phase channel and the anticausal filter $\hat{Q}_{(z)}^{(l+1)}$ associated with the latter.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method according to claim 6, wherein the computing step comprises computing the filter $\hat{P}_{(z)}^{(l)}$ of the transmission channel with initial and respectively successive minimum phase and the associated anticausal filter $\hat{Q}_{(z)}^{(l)}$ using the cepstre method.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of running an updated estimation of the coefficients of the impulse response $\hat{H}_{(z)}^{(l+1)}$ for the next iteration comprises:

- subjecting [said] a sequence of weighted outputs on decoded bits to [an] a re-interleaving process to generate a sequence of re-interleaved weighted outputs;
- subjecting said [flow of] sequence of re-interleaved weighted outputs to a hard decision in order to reconstitute the symbols received;
- subjecting the reconstituted received symbols to a linear pseudo-inversion process on all the reconstituted received symbols.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of running an updated estimation of the coefficients of the impulse response of the transmission channel for the next iteration comprises applying an expectation maximization type iteration using the weighted outputs on symbol bits produced by the equalization process in the running iteration

and the running estimated value of the coefficients of the impulse response of the transmission channel $\hat{H}_{(z)}^{(l)}$.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A system of detecting and iteratively decoding encoded and interleaved symbols on a transmission channel, these symbols being transmitted from a sequence of binary symbols, each sequence of received binary symbols comprising, in addition to the data, hold and tail symbols, at least specific learning symbols, wherein said system comprises at least:

- equalization means (1) with soft inputs and outputs receiving received symbols and emitting a sequence of weighted outputs on equalized symbol bits;
- a decoding means (3);
- means (2) for computing and iteratively exchanging a priori information, firstly on the symbol bits resulting from re-interleaved decoded symbol bits [in the case of the] when the equalization means is active [process] and, secondly, on de-interleaved encoded bits resulting from equalized symbol bits [in the case of the] when the decoding means is active [process];
- wherein the decoding means (3) [with] has soft inputs and outputs receiving said a priori information on the encoded bits and emitting a sequence of weighted outputs on decoded bits resulting from the decoding [process] means; and
- means for (4) producing an updated iterative estimation of coefficients of the impulse response of the transmission channel on the basis of the information resulting from the [iterative] equalization means and decoding means [process],

wherein said means for computing and iteratively exchanging a priori information is arranged for differentiating between a contribution of the transmission channel and a contribution of the decoding means.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A system of detecting and iteratively decoding encoded and interleaved symbols on a transmission channel, these symbols being transmitted from a sequence of binary symbols, each sequence of received binary symbols comprising, in addition to the data, hold and tail symbols, at least specific learning symbols, wherein said system comprises at least:

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- equalization means (1) with soft inputs and outputs receiving received symbols and emitting a sequence of weighted outputs on equalized symbol bits;
- a decoding means;
- means (2) for computing and iteratively exchanging a priori information, firstly on the symbol bits resulting from re-interleaved decoded symbol bits [in the case of the] when the equalization means is active [process] and, secondly, on de-interleaved encoded bits resulting from equalized symbol bits [in the case of the] when the decoding means is active [process];
- wherein the decoding means (3) [with] has soft inputs and outputs receiving said a priori information on the encoded bits and emitting a sequence of weighted outputs on decoded bits resulting from the decoding means [process]; and
- means for (4) producing an updated iterative estimation of coefficients of the impulse response of the transmission channel on the basis of the information resulting from the [iterative] equalization means and decoding means [process],

wherein said means (2) for computing and iteratively exchanging a priori information comprise:

- first means (20) for subtracting from sequence (S_1) of weighted outputs on equalized symbol bits said a priori information (S''_2) on the symbol bits in order to generate an extrinsic sequence (S'_1);
- means (21) for de-interleaving said extrinsic sequence enabling said sequence of weighted inputs (S''_1) containing the information from the channel and the a priori information of the encoded bits from [the] equalization to be generated;
- second means for subtracting (22) from the sequence of weighted outputs on decoded bits (S_2) resulting from the decoding means [process] said sequence of weighted inputs (S''_1) in order to generate a sequence of extrinsic information on decoded bits;
- means (23) for re-interleaving said sequence of extrinsic information on decoded bits, enabling said a priori information (S''_2) on the symbol bits to be generated.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A system according to claim 10, wherein said means (4) for running an updated iterative estimation comprise:

- means (40) for running an initial estimation of the coefficients of the impulse response of the transmission channel;

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- means for running an updated iterative estimation of the expectation maximization type of the coefficients of the impulse response of the transmission channel.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A system according to claim 10, wherein:

- said equalization means (1) are MLSE equalization means with soft inputs/outputs;
- said decoding means (3) are BCJR decoding means with soft inputs/outputs.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A system according to claim 10, wherein:

- said equalization means (1) are DDFSE equalization means with soft inputs/outputs;
- said decoding means (3) are BCJR decoding means with soft inputs/outputs.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A system according to claim 10, wherein:

- said equalization means (1) are GSOVA equalization means;
- said decoding means (3) are BCJR decoding means with soft outputs.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A system of detecting and iteratively decoding encoded and interleaved symbols on a transmission channel, these symbols being transmitted from a sequence of binary symbols, each sequence of received binary symbols comprising, in addition to the data, hold and tail symbols, at least specific learning symbols, wherein said system comprises at least:

- equalization means (1) with soft inputs and outputs receiving received symbols and emitting a sequence of weighted outputs on equalized symbol bits;
- a decoding means;
- means (2) for computing and iteratively exchanging a priori information, firstly on the symbol bits resulting from re-interleaved decoded symbol bits [in the case of the] when the equalization means is active [process] and, secondly, on de-interleaved encoded bits resulting from equalized symbol bits [in the case of the] when the decoding means is active [process];
- wherein the decoding means (3) [with] has soft inputs and outputs receiving said a priori information on the encoded bits and emitting a sequence of weighted outputs on decoded bits resulting from the decoding means [process]; and

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- means for (4) producing an updated iterative estimation of coefficients of the impulse response of the transmission channel on the basis of the information resulting from the [iterative] equalization means and decoding means [process],

wherein said updated iterative estimation means (4) comprise:

- means (41) for re-interleaving the sequence (S_2) of weighted outputs on decoded bits resulting from the decoding means [process], emitting a sequence of weighted outputs on re-interleaved decoded bits;
- hard decision means (42) receiving the sequence of weighted outputs on re-interleaved decoded bits and emitting a sequence of reconstituted received symbol bits;
- means (43) for applying a linear pseudo-inversion on all the reconstituted received symbols, enabling an updated estimation of the coefficients of the impulse response of the transmission channel to be emitted.